

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

HB 1404 - SB 1819

February 23, 2009

SUMMARY OF BILL: Authorizes counties to establish vote centers which would allow registered voters of that county to vote at any vote center in the county irrespective of the voter's precinct. Permits an individual to register and also cast their ballot on Election Day. Currently, a person must be registered 30 days prior to Election Day in order to vote.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase Local Expenditures:

**Net Impact - Exceeds \$100,000 Statewide/Permissive
\$360,000/Every Two Years***

Assumptions:

Vote Centers

- Since the bill would allow but would not require counties to adopt this plan, the number of counties that would choose to adopt this plan cannot be determined.
- The increased cost to each county would differ due to the number of registered voters, the number of necessary vote centers, and any improvements in technology that need to be made.
- It is estimated that local government expenditures would increase in some counties choosing this plan and could also decrease in other counties. (For example, Monroe County would have an increased cost of \$7,435; Sumner County would have an increased cost of \$79,750; and Stewart County would have a decrease in cost of \$680.) However, the net increase in local government expenditures is estimated to exceed \$100,000 statewide.

Election Day Registration

- According to the State Coordinator of Elections, permitting voters to register to vote and to cast a ballot on Election Day could result in long lines and waiting periods which would necessitate the hiring of additional poll workers.

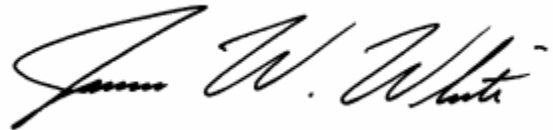
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- In order to handle the additional paperwork (completing a voter registration form, verification of identification of voter, verification that voter has not already voted in another county, entering voter data into the system database, and allowing the voter to cast a ballot), it is estimated that an average of one additional poll worker would be required to work in each precinct on Election Day.
- Larger precincts could require more than one additional poll worker and some smaller precincts may not require additional assistance.
- There are 2,250 precincts statewide.
- The average compensation of a poll worker is \$80 per day.
- There are two regularly scheduled elections every two years.
- The estimated cost of hiring additional poll workers for two elections every two years is \$360,000 (2,250 precincts x \$80 a day = \$180,000 x every two years = \$360,000).

**Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James W. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

James W. White, Executive Director

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